
Liberty-Perry Schools and Community

Volume 1 Issue 2 Fall 2009

Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow

"Together We Excel"

By: Mr. Bryan Rausch, Superintendent

Tammy Brant Named Indiana



Middle School P.E. Teacher of the Year

It comes as no surprise to those associated with Selma Middle School's Tammy Brant that she was recently named Indiana Middle School Teacher of the Year by the state P.E. Teachers Association. She does an excellent job teaching students contemporary material while utilizing current trends and technology to aide her instruction. This honor makes Tammy a finalist for the *Midwest* Teacher of the Year. Winning that award would put her in the running for the title of *National* Middle School Teacher of the Year.

To qualify for this award she was nominated by a peer from the educational community and had to excel above the competition based on the following 5 criteria:

1. Balanced curriculum following state and national standards
2. Use of various teaching methods
3. Quality role model
4. Participates in professional development
5. Serves on committees, and presents at workshops

There are two programs Mrs. Brant has implemented at Selma Middle School that have set her classroom apart from the rest. The first is the STARS program—an evaluation tool that measures excellence in physical education classrooms across the nation. Currently SMS is the only school in the state of Indiana with the STARS distinction. In order to qualify Tammy had to submit a 300-page portfolio evaluating different aspects of the middle school P.E. program. The second is the acquisition of heart rate monitors for all the P.E. students—something Tammy was able to secure after writing a Ball Brothers Foundation grant for \$5,000. While wearing the heart rate monitors, students can keep track of their own heart rates every 5 seconds by simply reading the display. Following the workout the students download the information from the monitor and are

taught to evaluate the information after it is collected over time. Students then keep all of the information from this program (along with many other lessons) in their personal fitness portfolio.

Tammy is a graduate of Wapahani High School and Ball State University. She has been married to husband David for 17 years and has two children—Drew, age 13, and Nathan, age 9. Tammy's excellence in education has been honored by her receiving Ball State University's Korsgaard Graduate Student of the Year Award in 2006 and by allowing her the privilege of sitting on many state and national committees.

As you can see the programs and excellence Tammy has implemented at SMS sets the bar for all P.E. teachers not only in Indiana but in the entire country. We are very proud of Tammy's many accomplishments and are glad that our students have the opportunity to benefit from Tammy's enthusiasm in her classroom.



Above Tammy Brant is evaluating the information from the heart rate monitor with a student during a recent P.E. class.

October 22nd is a teacher Professional Development Day. No School for Students.

October 23rd and 26th is Fall Break. All Liberty-Perry Schools will be closed.

LIBERTY-PERRY FAQ

How do I apply for free or reduced lunch or books?

Families can apply in the office at each school for free or reduced lunch and books. Forms can either be downloaded on the LPS website (<http://selma.bsu.edu>) or picked up in the office at each school.

Has the economy affected LPS?

The economy has forced our district to look in all directions for ways to save money. We have reduced bus routes, cut staff and are consolidating services in many areas.

Did Federal Stimulus money make it to LPS?

LPS did receive and continues to receive Federal Stimulus money for Title I and Special Education. A lot of the additional money is being used to upgrade our technology and for staffing. Another portion is being utilized to offer students credit recovery at the high school.

Is there a way to add more numbers to the One Call system?

Parents and students can add numbers to be called in case of an emergency by visiting the school website (<http://selma.bsu.edu>).

Has there been any progress made to resurface the track at WHS/SMS?

The district has secured quotes for the project. Currently the project looks like it will cost \$146,250. This is a much better quote than we had of \$334,292 in April 2007. There has been no action by the board for this project and I do not anticipate there to be unless it can be paid for without borrowing money.

Wapahani High School News Mr. Mike Schuck, Principal

The online Webster's dictionary defines the word "commitment" as "The act of binding yourself (intellectually or emotionally) to a course of action".

During the first week of school, we asked the freshmen class to "commit to graduate". With the help of Jostens, the freshmen class was presented with opportunities and choices they will have in the next four years. The choices our students make now will affect the paths they have available to them the rest of their lives. We, as a school and community, are responsible for our children remaining on the right path of education and becoming good citizens. Our students signed a banner that signified they are "committing to graduate". I have also asked the teachers to sign that banner to signify their commitment to those students. In four years, the class of 2013 will be walking across the stage with the Wapahani High School "Commit to Graduate" banner hanging to remind them of the dedication they have given to a goal they set on August 17, 2009. As parents, neighbors, relatives, and community members, we will also feel the affects of the commitment these students give. The freshmen class, as well as the sophomores, juniors, and seniors, will be who we lean on as we continue as a strong community in the future. I ask you to continue to encourage our students as you see them in the community. Please feel free to ask them if they are committed to graduate. Ask them what "course of action" they are committed to.

Selma Middle School News Dennis Thompson, Principal

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome parents, students, and staff back for another year at Selma Middle School. I would like to invite anyone in the community that is interested to stop by and check out the school and find out about what we are doing with our building and with our academics. Selma Middle School is full of wonderful students and staff!

There are a couple specific items I would like to highlight for you. First, in terms of the building, we have installed new steps and handrails in the gymnasium and added safety straps to the basketball goals. We have also removed two rows of bleachers so patrons will not have to walk on the playing floor to get to their seat. Finally, the entire gym received a fresh coat of paint from top to bottom and a brand new curtain to cover the mezzanine fence. If you walk upstairs, you will notice the new paint on the upstairs lockers. Our upstairs lockers were worn down to the metal in some places but now they have a nice new coat of paint with a finish coat that enhances both the look and the durability. In general, the building and grounds look better than ever and other minor projects are scheduled to begin and continued throughout the school year.

Next, our faculty have had another busy summer in preparation for the school year. Mrs. Milliner and

Mrs. Walton, both graduates of the Indiana Writing Project, had the opportunity to teach “Comp Camp”, a writing seminar for middle/high school students, at Ball State this summer. In addition, Mrs. Mikel, Mrs. Riggin, and Mrs. Scales were involved in the Indiana Writing Project that lasted most of the summer and was also held at Ball State University. Mr. Zebendon took a class at Anderson University and Mrs. Brown took a class at Ball State University as well. Finally, to top off the professional development side of things, Mrs. Milliner, Mrs. Mikel, Mrs. Walton, Mrs. Yates, Mrs. Scales, and Mr. Thompson were involved in an informal Book Club that met a couple times over the summer.

Registration this year went smoothly and I would like to note the great turn out for the 6th Grade Orientation held before the start of school. We had approximately 70 prospective 6th graders come and meet with an 8th grade Honor Society member and had the opportunity to go around to classes to briefly meet with teachers. “Subway” was served for lunch and students were able to work on lockers, talk with friends and teachers, and in general have a low pressure start to the school year.

Again Selma Middle School and the Liberty-Perry community in general are great places to be. I want to encourage parents to instill in their children to WORK as hard as they can with the best ATTITUDE they can have and to be as TEACHABLE as they possibly can be. It is important to note that while it is the teacher’s job and responsibility to teach your child it is your responsibility to first have your child ready and prepared to learn. We all have our unique part in the education of our children.



Above Mrs. Knots 4th grade students show off their Lima Bean and Pinto Beans Science project after one week from being planted.

Activity Name: The Great Bean Race!

State Standard Addressed: Scientific Process
 Skills/Processes Learned:
 1. Observations
 2. Procedures
 3. Hypothesis

Selma Elementary School News
Joel Mahaffey
Elementary Principal

I am very excited about the start to another school year and the opportunity to make a positive impact in the lives of our elementary children! On behalf of the elementary teachers and staff, I am honored to welcome everyone back to begin another fruitful journey as we work together to instill a passion for lifelong learning in our students.

It is with mixed emotions that we say farewell and good luck to two wonderful educators, Mrs. Pittenger and Mrs. Suits, in their decisions to retire from the Liberty-Perry Community School Corporation. Both served in the Liberty-Perry Community School Corporation in excess of 30 years! We will miss Mrs. Pittenger and Mrs. Suits as they begin their new adventures! On behalf of the school community, I want to thank Mrs. Pittenger and Mrs. Suits for supporting our schools, and working passionately to improve the lives of our students!



Mrs. Sally Suits



Mrs. Julia Pittenger

Perry Elementary will once again be under new leadership. Mrs. Coffman will now serve as the Perry Elementary Assistant to the Principal. I look forward to working alongside Mrs. Coffman to support the learning needs of our students at Perry Elementary School.

With each new school year, we continue to initiate, build, and strengthen the elementary programs and services. The new High Ability (GT) program, new computer curriculum software known as “SkillsTutor”, and computer software additions to the Perry Elementary Waterford program will all significantly strengthen our elementary curriculums. Additional information will

sent out from the elementary front offices regarding these initiatives.

As always, please feel free to contact me at Selma Elementary with your questions, thoughts, and/or concerns. I look forward to getting to know your child as we work hard to meet his/her needs.

Perry Elementary News
Bonnie Coffman
Assistant to the Principal

The Perry Garden has added a new dimension of learning for our students. Each student will have the opportunity to pick and shuck an ear of sweet corn which will then be prepared for lunch. Corn on the cob from the Perry garden is a real treat! The children will also be harvesting peppers, onions and tomatoes from the Perry Garden. Observing the growth of pumpkins has been a fascinating learning experience for the children. We are anxiously awaiting pumpkin harvest. We appreciate Mrs. Brenda Layne, Food Service Director and Mr. Ellenburg, custodian for their diligent efforts to make the Perry Garden an exciting place to learn.

The Discovery Zone will be coming to Perry Elementary soon. We have several exciting themes planned for our children to explore throughout the year. We will integrate Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Art, Music and P.E. in our explorations. Our first theme will be "Crocodile Dock." The children will explore the fascinating ecosystem found in a bayou. We continuously strive to create an exciting learning environment for our students at Perry.

AP Calculus Students Pass the AP Test – 100%

We as educators prepare students as best as we can. We then tell the students "just do your best" when it's test time. Well, the AP Calculus students did extremely well with the 2009 AP test. All eight students passed the AP test with a 3 or higher to earn college credit. Congratulations to those students and Mr. Bales. Mr. Bales said it all by saying, "AP calc rocks!" The AP tests are graded from 1-5 with a 3 or higher as passing. The AP stands for advanced placement.

WHS Academic Math Team Advances to the State Finals – AGAIN.

The 2008-2009 academic math team advanced to the state finals at Purdue University for the second time in three years this past Spring. Mr. Bales was extremely proud of his students. He encouraged them to

focus and work through each problem. Mr. Bales gives credit to his students by saying, "The dedication and discipline they exhibited within their respective math classes was why they were so successful." Team members included Lacy Raef, Josh Price, Alex Triplett, and Eden Shroyer. Mr. Schuck stated, "Watching our students participate at that level was extremely thrilling. I was definitely a proud principal as I shook their hands and handed them their medals."

NURSES' NOTES

From the desk of
Nancy Thomas

H1N1 Influenza-What We Know and How You Can Protect Your Family

What is H1N1?

- a combination of swine, avian and human influenza
- a flu strain that could mutate into another virus and can be passed among many different hosts making it hard to predict how minimal or severe this strain of flu may become

How is H1N1 passed from one host to another?

- The virus is passed by secretion droplets that are released when someone coughs or sneezes.
- If these secretion droplets fall onto a surface, a person may contract the virus by coming into direct contact with that surface.

What kinds of medicines are effective in treating the H1N1 virus?

- This is a virus; therefore, antibiotics will not be useful.
- Antiviral medication may be used to help with symptoms if taken within the first 48 hours of symptoms.
- The H1N1 immunization should be available in Oct. and will be given free of charge at mass immunization sites.

Who should get immunized for H1N1 and where do I go to get it?

- At the present time people between the ages of 25-49 have been affected the most.
- The vaccine will be available to people who are at the most risk first: pregnant women, young adult and children.
- The Delaware County Health Dept. and partners will be distributing the vaccine. It is a 2 shot series that should be given over 3 weeks apart.

- This vaccine only protects from the H1N1 virus—not the regular influenza A.

What should our family do to prevent the spread of H1N1?

- Avoid contact with others that are sick
- Wash your hands frequently
- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Practice good health habits

What are the symptoms of H1N1?

- Fever
- Chills
- Sore Throat
- Cough
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Nausea and vomiting

Note: These symptoms may last for 7-10 days. **Students should remain home until fever free for 48 hours.**

What are the schools doing to protect my child from H1N1?

- Hand sanitizers have been placed in each classroom.
- Proper cough etiquette along with social distancing is being taught.
- Extra care of cleaning of all classrooms and buses is being implemented.

For more information you may visit the CDC influenza page:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu>

Specific topics such as:

Taking care of a sick person in your home.

<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidancehomecare.htm>

**Teacher “Spotlight”
Rebekah Ireland
Wapahani High School**

If you ask Rebecca Ireland what she loves to do, she will most undoubtedly answer, “Be with my family and TEACH”. Mrs. Ireland has been teaching for 14 years with 9 of them at her alma mater, Wapahani High School. She is a very proud 91’ graduate and current member of the Selma community.

Mrs. Ireland is a very active teacher incorporating many creative projects, activities, and events into her teaching strategies. She is constantly thinking of ways that students can be involved in learning Spanish. Mr. Schuck said that one of his favorite activities that Mrs. Ireland did last year was the mini-Spanish club for elementary students. “The students were extremely excited to learn a new language and participate in the many different activities she planned for them. I truly believe those students will remember that experience.”

Mrs. Ireland feels she is on the cutting edge by constantly exploring how to integrate technology into her lessons. Every day you can see Mrs. Ireland directing her lessons using the (ELMO). She often uses the student response system for students to answer questions without embarrassment of answering wrong. She will be experimenting with pod casting in the near future with her Spanish students. Mrs. Ireland states, “I feel the students will take this opportunity and run with it. They will be able to listen or watch their own lessons on their own time. They will also be able to download someone else’s podcast and learn from it.” Mrs. Ireland currently sends her students text messages in Spanish to keep them constantly thinking about Spanish. Mrs. Ireland says, “Almost every student has a cell phone. It is a great way to keep them involved.”

Some of her colleagues describe Mrs. Ireland as enthusiastic, energetic, resourceful, and creative. Please check out the Spanish link on the Wapahani High School webpage for pictures and information about Mrs. Ireland’s curriculum.

SMS Student Participates on Robotics Team

Tyler Moore, 8th grader at Selma Middle School, participated in the Purdue University Boilermaker Regional FIRST Robotics competition this past spring on Purdue’s campus. The team is an extra-curricular technology education program that combines adult professional mentors, college students, and high school students to put together a robot for the competition.



Tyler was the youngest and one of only three middle school students to participate on the twenty-member team.

Congratulations Tyler!

Wapahani Students Honored at the 2009 Delaware County Youth Salute Awards Ceremony

The following Wapahani High School students were recognized at the 2009 Delaware County Youth Salute Awards Ceremony Sunday, August 23, 2009 at Delta High School: Tyler Ashby, Lyndsey Brown, Allie Craycraft, Katelyn Glaze, Lacy Raef, Cory Thomas, Kenna Thompson, and Douglas Alexander Triplett. Lyndsey Brown was awarded a \$1,100 scholarship to any University of her choosing. Cory Thomas was chosen to represent Delaware County, along with 5 other students, in St. Louis for a four-day leadership conference at the end of October. The Youth Salute is sponsored by the Greater Muncie Area Council on Youth Leadership.

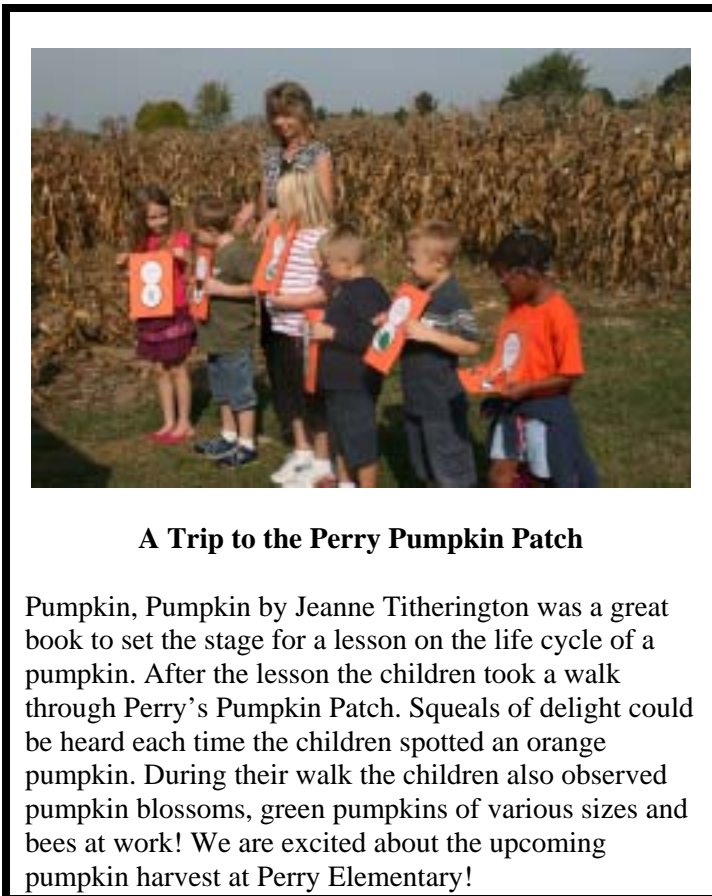


Above the 7th grade girl's volleyball team is wearing "Crazy Socks" for team spirit. If they have an important game with a rival they wear crazy socks. They even call it "The Crazy Sock Club"! Last week they played longtime rival Burris. The socks must have worked because the Braves beat the Owls in 2 games!

***LPS School Board Meetings
are held at 6:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of every
month at the administrative building. The public is
welcome to attend each month.***

Annual LPS Retired Teacher Luncheon a Success

The LPS retired teachers returned to school last week for lunch at Wapahani High School. The annual event attracts nearly 40 teachers each year. Pictured below is honored guest Mrs. Ruth Oren. Mrs. Oren taught Social Studies and English at the high school for several years. Ruth was honored not only for her service to children in the district but to also celebrate her 100th birthday. Happy Birthday Mrs. Oren!



A Trip to the Perry Pumpkin Patch

Pumpkin, Pumpkin by Jeanne Titherington was a great book to set the stage for a lesson on the life cycle of a pumpkin. After the lesson the children took a walk through Perry's Pumpkin Patch. Squeals of delight could be heard each time the children spotted an orange pumpkin. During their walk the children also observed pumpkin blossoms, green pumpkins of various sizes and bees at work! We are excited about the upcoming pumpkin harvest at Perry Elementary!